

Understanding Culture Society and Politics

Quarter 1 – Module 1: Nature, Goals and Perspectives in Anthropology, Sociology and Political Science



What is It

In this part of your journey, we provide something for you to deepen your understanding about culture.

Please continue reading with comprehension as you discover further knowledge that will help you out in your quest on the remaining phases of this lesson.

Since our course is Understanding Culture, Society and Politics, we can deepen our understanding of ourselves as members of society by studying these three specialized fields, namely: anthropology for culture, sociology for society and political science for politics

A lot of us are likely confused with the difference between sociology and anthropology. Confusion might come from their commonalities as the two are dealing with society and culture. Both of them study human behavior and the different factors that affects our social relations. Since these two fields are most likely similar to each other, let us first draw out its differences

To find out the difference between anthropology and sociology, let us study the similar and various concepts between each field below:

	Anthropology	Sociology
<i>Answers the question.</i>	What does it mean to be human? Who are you? Where do you come from?	How do we study society? What are the things that you think influence your life? What is life to people living in places with different culture and behavior?
<i>Where did it start?</i>	Anthropology started as a science during the time of exploration when European countries started to colonize what they considered as primitive societies where people were believed to be savages and barbaric. Let it be clear that anthropology started as the study of non-European people by European people (outward). During their colonial encounter with these people, Europeans started to make a written records about non-Europeans. They focus on kinship,	Sociology emerged as an academic field right at the height of the Industrial Revolution in Europe which mobilized the entire population in a way that had never been before in human history. These era had brought great changes in the way people live in a society. Sociology started as the study of European society by European people (inward). During that time, emerging institutions arose and replaced the old ones such as how science was taking over religion, when the reign of kings and queens fell

	language, race, religion, cultural perceptions, and others.	down, and when the era of feudalism had ended. People saw the importance of studying these emerging institutions and how they started and what impact they could make to an individual and the new society in general.
<i>Who started this field?</i>	Franz Boas –considered as the father of modern American anthropology. His study led to the doctrine of “historical particularism,” where he stated that each society is considered as having a unique form of culture that cannot be understood under an overall definition of general culture.	Auguste Comte – French philosopher and mathematician. He coined the term sociology. He saw the need for a systematic science of studying society and in dealing with the solution of its basic problems.
<i>Concept</i>	Anthropology is the study of people and their culture. It uses a special research method known as <i>ethnography</i> in which anthropologists are required to live with their subject of study for a long period of time in order to make their writings more reliable and credible.	Sociology is the study of society, patterns of social interactions, and culture of everyday life. Unlike anthropology, the knowledge created by sociology is used to understand one’s own society. Sociologists use qualitative research methods in doing their studies.
<i>Subjects of Inquiry</i>	Biological anthropology refers to the study of human origins (genetics, race, evolutions, fossils, primates). Cultural anthropology is the study of living people (religion, social system, language, clothing, foods, beliefs, traditions, etc). Linguistics is the study of language, its evolution, its connection to other languages, and others. Archeology refers to the study of dead culture (religion, social system, language, how they dress, foods, beliefs, traditions, etc).	Anything in a society that influences people’s lives can be subjects of inquiry, like different social phenomena, issues, and problems. Sociologists can also look into things that influence life like family background, socio-economic status, ethnicity, social classes, religion, gender, beliefs, traditions, norms, among others. Some fields are social organization, social psychology, applied sociology, and human ecology.
<i>Goals</i>	The goals of anthropology are the following: - See the commonalities among people (tradition, language, kinship, etc). - Look at what makes us the same to understand more about human nature.	The goals of Sociology are the following: - Obtain possible theories and principles about society as well as various aspects of social life.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discover what makes people different from each other in order to understand and preserve diversity. - Produce new knowledge and new theories about mankind and behavior. - Look at one's own culture more objectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study the nature of humanity to further examine our roles within a society. - Appreciate that all things in society are interdependent. - Expose our minds to different perspectives in attaining truth.
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After finding out the difference between anthropology and sociology, let us now proceed with another discipline in social science that plays another important role in our life.

Politics impacts our lives directly or indirectly, whether we are aware of its effects or not. If there is a crime that took place, we call the police, and this scheme is part of the government. If there was a fire that occurred, we call the fire department, and that's also a part of the government. Military is government as well, let alone our civil liberty and our rights which have influences on us daily. In school, you were asked to read by heart the Constitution. When you are apprehended by an authority, you asked your violation and insisted on your legal rights. Even inside your house, there are still set of rules that are being enforced and followed. All these things are related to a field called Political Science.

	Description/Explanation
<i>Origin</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The study of political science was started by the ancient Greeks - Aristotle in his book "Politics" stated that Man is a political animal. It means that it is our nature to live in a society and to have power over another.
<i>Concepts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political Science is the systematic study of government, politics, and political power. - It is often defined as who gets what, when, where and how.
<i>Subjects of Inquiry</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - political theory, philosophy and different political ideologies - public management - human rights - international relations and foreign policies
<i>Goals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make people a better citizen. - Keep social order and harmony among different groups of people. - Protect the rights of an individual. - Avoid conflict and promote cooperation.